

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 076012

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, VS

SUBJECT: NEGOTIATING EFFORT BY TRAN VAN HUU

1. TRAN VAN HUU, FORMER VIETNAMESE PRIME MINISTER UNDER BAO DAI NOW LIVING IN PARIS, SENT ONE OF HIS AIDES, MAI VAN HANH, TO CALL ON DEPTOFF APRIL 2.

2. HANH SAID ANOTHER OF HUU'S AIDES, LE QUOC TUY, IS CURRENTLY IN SAIGON WHERE HE HAS MET WITH PRESIDENT THIEU. ACCORDING TO HANH, THIEU TOLD TUY THAT HE HAD BEEN HOPING FOR AN EMISSARY FROM HUU, THAT HE REGARDED HUU AS THE ONLY MAN WHO WOULD BE ABLE TO SERVE AS AN INTERMEDIARY WITH HANOI FOR PEACE NEGOTIATIONS, THAT HE WELCOMED HUU'S INITIATIVE IN THIS REGARD, AND THAT HE WOULD STEP DOWN IF THIS WOULD FACILITATE A SETTLEMENT. HANH SAID FURTHER THAT TUY IS ATTEMPTING TO RALLY SUPPORT FOR THIEU, PARTICULARLY AMONG HOA HAO AND CAO DAI, IN ORDER TO STRENGTHEN THIEU'S POSITION SUFFICIENTLY FOR HIM TO CONDUCT
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NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE NORTH. TUY PLANS TO RETURN TO PARIS

ABOUT APRIL 9, AND HUU, HANH, AND TUY PLAN TO COME TO WASHINGTON APRIL 14. IN WASHINGTON, HUU HOPES TO SEE LEADING PEOPLE LIKE SENATORS KENNEDY AND MCGOVERN AND URGE THEM TO MAKE GESTURES OF SUPPORT TOWARD GVN SO THAT GVN COULD BE PUT IN A BETTER NEGOTIATING POSITION. FOLLOWING

STAY IN WASHINGTON, HUU HOPES TO PROCEED TO HANOI AND BEGIN NEGOTIATING PROCESS.

3. DEPTOFF LISTENED TO HANH'S PRESENTATION AND UNDERTOOK TO INFORM HIS SUPERIORS AND AMEMBASSY SAIGON.

4. COMMENT: WE HAVE NO REASON TO BELIEVE HUU COULD IN FACT SERVE USEFUL ROLE AS MEDIATOR BETWEEN GVN AND DRV, PARTICULARLY UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES CURRENTLY PREVAILING. HOWEVER, SINCE HUU'S AGENT TUY CLAIMS TO HAVE SEEN THIEU AND TO HAVE RECEIVED FAVORABLE RESPONSE, WE THOUGHT YOU WOULD WISH TO HAVE THIS INFORMATION BY CABLE. INGERSOLL

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